

Mays Chapel Elementary PTA

Information/Organizational Meeting Recap June 11, 2014

In Attendance: Approximately 40 people attended the meeting, representing all 4 of the feeder schools and including several 'new' parents of students just entering kindergarten as well.

Introductions: Stephen Coco, Principal and Katie Murray, Assistant Principal began the introductions and all of the attendees introduced themselves including brief information about their previous schools, PTA interests and children.

Discussion Points:

PTO vs. PTA: In response to a question, Michael Quinn outlined the differences between forming a PTO or a PTA at MCES.

Basically, a PTO is just that: an organization of parents and teachers that is not affiliated with the State or National PTA (which claims trademark rights in the 'PTA' name and logo.) A PTO generally undertakes the same sorts of activities and serves the same functions at a school as a 'PTA' but is more independent. A PTO is responsible for its own incorporation, liability and D&O insurance (which is available from various carriers who specialize in this market) and finances and must apply to the IRS for recognition of its exemption as a Section 501(c)(3) organization.

By contrast, a local PTA is technically 'affiliated' with the Maryland State PTA and shares its federal income tax exemption, i.e., it is not required to seek its own exemption determination (although it must still make its own annual filings with the IRS). The 'cost' of being a PTA is that a PTA must remit dues on local, state and national levels (which last year totaled \$4.25 per member but will be increasing) and is required to conform its bylaws to the State PTA 'form' and agree to certain other operating restrictions. The 'bottom line' is that being a PTA does bring certain advantages, including a simplified process for getting started (which may be important given the resources available to us) and various other resources once we are up and running and a unified voice in advocating for our children and our schools on both a state and national level. Whether to organize as a PTO or a PTA, though is ultimately a fair question – and one that we're going to need to answer in the near future as we move forward.

Goals and Objectives: In order to begin as an organization, we need a Board of Directors to form a corporation, open a bank account, begin fundraising, etc. At the end of the evening, we would like to have a Steering Committee representative of all feeder schools to begin on the next steps.

Brainstorming: We broke into small groups to discuss ideas about activities, fundraising, communication, etc. and then we rejoined to share our ideas. Ideas included:

Fundraising:

- Direct Donation Campaign
- Penny Wars (children bring in pennies and compete between classes)
- More Than A Run (Jog-A-Thon)
- Math-A-Thon
- Dinners at local restaurants (Chick-Fil-A, Jason's Deli)
- Online Dues Paying
- Corporate Donations

Events:

- Ice Cream Social
- Pizza Bingo
- Spring Fling
- Whittle Night
- Picnic
- 5th Grade Committee/Graduation

School Items:

- Take Home Folders/Agendas
- Spirit Wear
- School Directory
- Yearbook
- Team Building (students, teachers and parents)

Communications:

- Email Blast
- Social Media (Mays Chapel Elementary group on Facebook)
- Website (mayschapelpta.org)

Formation of Steering Committee:

The following people volunteered to be a part of the Committee to begin the process of establishing the Mays Chapel PTA:

- Tricia Guildener
- Jeanette Guy
- Aileen Kammer
- Arisa Kirk
- Ronda Kunkel
- Mariana Lange
- Veronique Marzullo
- Tami Payne
- Michael Quinn
- Amy Spencer
- Kelly Sevier
- Sharon Wambaa
- Melissa Whatley
- Greg Zapiec